



# Howard County Happenings *with Allan H. Kittleman*

July 2016

## A Message from the County Executive



The revitalization of Downtown Columbia took a major step forward recently when we submitted legislation that provides a comprehensive plan to sustain future Downtown development, while protecting the interests of the County and other stakeholders of the project.

The legislation, which is now before the County Council, is the result of a collaborative process that incorporated input from government, residents, affordable housing advocates, the local arts community and The Howard Hughes Corporation. Key to the plan's success is the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) legislation to fund critical infrastructure needs. This common public financial tool will minimize

risks to the County and its taxpayers and help ensure affordable housing is built.

Also last week, the reorganization of the County's Department of Citizen Services went into effect, which will better help our residents get the assistance they need. At the heart of the change, staff will follow a 'No Wrong Door' approach so that residents can be connected to services without spending an entire day going from place to place to find support. We've also created new offices to specifically help veterans and their families, those with physical challenges and many of our community partners.

## Meet the new Department of Community Resources and Services

Effective July 1, the new [Department of Community Resources and Services](#) (DCRS) is promoting a comprehensive, coordinated approach to resources that residents need. This reorganization includes seven offices to ensure that residents across generations, cultures and abilities have access to the spectrum of support they need. Existing offices have adopted updated names, and new service offices are available for Veterans and Military Families, Community Partnerships and ADA Coordination.



*DCRS Director Phyllis Madachy explains the new department*



*Rendering of developed  
Downtown Columbia*

## Downtown Columbia redevelopment legislation

Eight bills submitted recently will advance the [redevelopment of Downtown Columbia](#) through new affordable housing provisions and Tax Increment Financing (TIF). The legislation, which is needed to amend the county code, will be reviewed by the County Council during July. If passed, the County will have a comprehensive and legal framework that will guarantee that affordable housing will be built in the Downtown, while minimizing financial risks to the County and its residents. The legislation is the result of a collaborative process spanning months and incorporates the views of multiple stakeholders.

## Participate in Zika prevention

All of us have heard about the [Zika virus](#) and are probably concerned about mosquitos this summer. I recently visited with Howard County Health Officer Maura Rossman M.D. to discuss ways that all residents can participate in controlling mosquitos, avoid mosquito bites and prevent illness. With a little maintenance each week to address standing water, we can ensure a healthy summer for our families.



*Mosquito prevention tips*



*During my tour of the damage, I encountered this fallen tree in Glenelg, where the exposed roots stood nearly twice my height and the trunk had split this house in half. Residents sheltered in the basement without injury as the storm passed.*

## June 21 Tornado Update

While we are fortunate that no one was seriously injured, many residents are still [cleaning up the mess](#) left by a storm on June 21. A tornado damaged a 500-yard path across 13 miles of Howard County. On **Saturday, June 9**, the Alpha Ridge Landfill and an alternate dump site at the Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum will continue extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for debris. Thanks to hardworking county staff and local volunteers, as well as state emergency officials, for their support during this recovery effort.

## First Lady Yumi Hogan and Korean Delegation to visit

Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan, Howard Community College President Dr. Kate Hetherington and I will welcome officials from Naju City in the Republic of Korea on **July 12** to announce an educational and cultural exchange between our County and their city. We will sign memorandums of understanding that will form the framework for potential student exchanges, business and investment opportunities and cultural relationships. Naju City is the hometown of Mrs. Hogan.



*First Lady Yumi Hogan, Naju City Mayor In Kyu Kang and Naju City Councilman Sun Youg Kim will announce a new partnership with Howard County next week.*

## Dates to Remember

**July - August** [Summer Concerts](#) - Sunset Serenades and Traveling Bands schedule  
**July 10** [Summer Spectacular](#) - Robinson Nature Center  
**July 19** [6th Annual Howard County Film "Feastival"](#) - Clark's Eliaok Farm  
**August 6** [HoCo Walks](#) at Rockburn Branch Park with Oriole Bird

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